

### STATE OF MICHIGAN RUTH JOHNSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE Lansing

April 2011

#### -- NEW POLITICAL PARTY QUALIFICATION --

A political party is required to file the following in order to gain access to the November 6, 2012 general election ballot:

- 1) A "new political party" petition containing the requisite number of valid signatures.
- 2) A certificate which states the name of the party. The certificate must be signed by the chairperson and the secretary of the state central committee of the political party.
- 3) A copy of the party vignette (ballot symbol).

#### **Petition Requirement**

To meet the petition requirement, a political party must file a "new political party" petition bearing the signatures of registered and qualified electors equal to not less than 1 percent (.01) of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for governor at the last election in which a governor was elected. At the November 2, 2010 general election, 3,226,088 votes were cast for all candidates seeking the office of governor. Thus, the minimum number of valid signatures presently required on a "new political party" petition is 32,261.

**SIGNATURE DISTRIBUTION**: At least 100 signatures from each of at least ½ of the congressional districts in the state.

<u>CIRCULATION PERIOD</u>: 180 days preceding filing date. Signatures more than 180 days old on the date the petition is filed are not valid.

**FILING DEADLINE**: 4:00 p.m. on July 19, 2012. After a "new political party" petition is filed, additional petition sheets cannot be added to the filing.

FILING LOCATION: Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections in Lansing.

**FORM**: The form of the petition (including page size and type sizes) must be in conformity with Michigan election law, MCL 168.685. (See attached sample petition form.) The sponsors of a "new political party" petition are urged to submit a proof copy of their petition to the Board of State Canvassers for approval as to form prior to the circulation of the petition. The attached "Printer's Affidavit" must accompany a petition submitted for Board approval.

#### **Governing Provisions of Michigan Election Law**

The provisions of Michigan election law which govern ballot access by new political parties are attached.

A copy of the compiled Michigan election law may be obtained for \$7.50 from the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections. If ordering by mail, make your check or money order payable to the "State of Michigan." The compiled Michigan election law can also be accessed through the Department's Website <www.michigan.gov/sos>.

#### **Questions?**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

THE SPONSORS OF A "NEW POLITICAL PARTY" PETITIONS ARE URGED TO SUBMIT A PROOF COPY OF THEIR PETITION TO THE BOARD OF STATE CANVASSERS FOR APPROVAL AS TO FORM PRIOR TO THE CIRCULATION OF THE PETITION. WHEN SUBMITTING A PETITION FORM FOR APPROVAL, THE BOARD REQUESTS THAT THIS AFFIDAVIT BE ATTACHED.

#### PRINTER'S AFFIDAVIT

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_, BEING DULY SWORN, DEPOSE AND SAY:

1.	THAT I PREPARED THE ATTACHED P	ETITION PROOF.			
2.	THAT THE SIZE OF THE PETITION IS	8 ½" x 13".			
3.	THAT THE WORDS "PETITION TO FOR NAME OF THE PROPOSED PARTY AR	RM NEW POLITICAL PARTY" AND THE E 24-POINT BOLDFACE TYPE.			
4.	THAT THE WORDS "WE, THE UNDER	SIGNED ETC." ARE IN 8-POINT TYPE.			
5.	THAT THE TWO "WARNINGS" AND THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED THEREIN ARE PRINTED IN 12-POINT BOLDFACE TYPE.				
6.	THAT THE WORDS "CIRCULATOR - DO NOT SIGN OR DATE CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION" ARE IN 12-POINT BOLDFACE TYPE.				
7.	THAT THE BALANCE OF THE PETITION IS IN 8-POINT TYPE.				
8.	THAT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THE PETITION CONFORMS TO THE PETITION FORM STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW.				
Signature					
	Political Party				
Subscribed and sworn to by		Name of Notary			
before me on theday of,		Notary Public, State of Michigan, County of			
		My commission expires			
<del></del>		Acting in the County of			
Signatu	re of notary public				

# 168.532 Nomination by caucus or convention where principal candidate receives less than 5% of vote cast for candidates for secretary of state.

Sec. 532. A political party whose principal candidate received less than 5% of the total vote cast for all candidates for the office of secretary of state in the last preceding state election, either in the state or in any political subdivision affected, shall not make its nominations by the direct primary method. The nomination of all candidates of such parties shall be made by means of caucuses or conventions which shall be held and the names of the party's nominations filed at the time and manner provided in section 686a of this act. The term "principal candidate" of any party shall be construed to mean the candidate whose name shall appear nearest the top of the party column.

History: 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955; -- Am. 1973, Act 28, Imd. Eff. June 14, 1973

#### 168.534 General primary; time; party candidates to be voted for; condition to nomination.

Sec. 534. A general primary of all political parties except as provided in sections 532 and 685 shall be held in every election precinct in this state on the Tuesday after the first Monday in August before every general November election, at which time the qualified and registered voters of each political party may vote for party candidates for the office of governor, United States senator, representative in congress, state senator, representative in the legislature, county executive, prosecuting attorney, sheriff, county clerk, county treasurer, register of deeds, county auditor, drain commissioner, public works commissioner, county road commissioner, county mine inspector, surveyor, and candidates for office in townships. A nomination for an office shall be made only if the official is to be elected at the next succeeding general November election.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955; -- Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955; -- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 57, Imd. Eff. Dec. 27, 1963; -- Am. 1976, Act 260, Imd. Eff. Aug. 12, 1976; -- Am. 1988, Act 116, Imd. Eff. May 2, 1988

# 168.544c Nominating petition; type size; form; contents; circulation and signing; unlawful signature; false statement; misdemeanor; sanctions; applicability of section.

Sec. 544c. (1) A nominating petition shall be 8-1/2 inches by 14 inches in size. On a nominating petition, the words "nominating petition" shall be printed in 24-point boldface type. "We, the undersigned," et cetera shall be printed in 8-point type. "Warning" and language in the warning shall be printed in 12-point boldface type. The balance of the petition shall be printed in 8-point type. The name, address, and party affiliation of the candidate and the office for which petitions are signed shall be printed in type not larger than 24-point. The petition shall be in the following form:

## NOMINATING PETITION (PARTISAN)

We, the undersigned, registered and qualified voters of the city or township (strike 1)				
in the county of				
and state of Michigan, nominate.				

,	Candidate) Route) (City or Township)
as a candidate of the	
To be voted for at the primary election to be held	t, if any) d on the day, 20
WAR A person who knowingly signs more petitions fo elected to the office or signs a name other than h Michigan election law.	
Printed Name and Signature Street Address or Rural Route Zip Code Date of Signing Mo. Day Year 1	
3	
numbered lines as above	
	each signature is the genuine signature of the signing the petition was at the time of signing applisted in the heading of the petition, and the
(Printed Name and Signature of Circulator)	(Date)
	or, for petitions under section 482, "Qualified to be Registered)"]
(Complete Residence Address (S	treet and Number or Rural Route)
(Zip (	Code)

Warning-A circulator knowingly making a false statement in the above certificate, a person not a circulator who signs as a circulator, or a person who signs a name other than his or her own as circulator is guilty of a misdemeanor.

- (2) The petition shall be in a form providing a space for the circulator and each elector who signs the petition to print his or her name. The secretary of state shall prescribe the location of the space for the printed name. The failure of the circulator or an elector who signs the petition to print his or her name, to print his or her name in the location prescribed by the secretary of state, or to enter a zip code or his or her correct zip code does not affect the validity of the signature of the circulator or the elector who signs the petition. A printed name located in the space prescribed for printed names does not constitute the signature of the circulator or elector.
- (3) At the time of circulation, the circulator of a petition shall be a registered elector of this state. At the time of executing the certificate of circulator, the circulator shall be registered in the city or township indicated in the certificate of circulator on the petition. However, the circulator of a petition under section 482 need only be qualified to be a registered elector of this state at the time of circulation and at the time of executing the certificate of circulator.
- (4) The circulator of a petition shall sign and date the certificate of circulator before the petition is filed. A circulator shall not obtain electors' signatures after the circulator has signed and dated the certificate of circulator. A filing official shall not count electors' signatures that were obtained after the date the circulator signed the certificate or that are contained in a petition that the circulator did not sign and date.
- (5) Except as provided in section 544d, a petition sheet shall not be circulated in more than 1 city or township and each signer of a petition sheet shall be a registered elector of the city or township indicated in the heading of the petition sheet. The invalidity of 1 or more signatures on a petition does not affect the validity of the remainder of the signatures on the petition.
- (6) An individual shall not sign more nominating petitions for the same office than there are persons to be elected to the office. An individual who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor.
  - (7) An individual shall not do any of the following:
  - (a) Sign a petition with a name other than his or her own.
  - (b) Make a false statement in a certificate on a petition.
  - (c) If not a circulator, sign a petition as a circulator.
  - (d) Sign a name as circulator other than his or her own.
- (8) An individual who violates subsection (7) is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 93 days, or both.
- (9) If after a canvass and a hearing on a petition under section 476 or 552 the board of state canvassers determines that an individual has knowingly and intentionally failed to comply with subsection (7), the board of state canvassers may impose 1 or more of the following sanctions:
- (a) Disqualify obviously fraudulent signatures on a petition form on which the violation of subsection (7) occurred, without checking the signatures against local registration records.
- (b) Disqualify from the ballot a candidate who committed, aided or abetted, or knowingly allowed the violation of subsection (7) on a petition to nominate that candidate.
- (10) If an individual violates subsection (7) and the affected petition sheet is filed, each of the following who knew of the violation of subsection (7) before the filing of the affected petition sheet and who failed to report the violation to the secretary of state, the filing official, if different, the attorney general, a law enforcement officer, or the county prosecuting attorney is

guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both:

- (a) The circulator of the petition, if different than the individual who violated subsection (7).
- (b) If the petition is a nominating petition, the candidate whose nomination is sought.
- (c) If the petition is a petition for a ballot question or recall, the organization or other person sponsoring the petition drive.
- (11) If after a canvass and a hearing on a petition under section 476 or 552 the board of state canvassers determines that an individual has violated subsection (10), the board of state canvassers may impose 1 or more of the following sanctions:
- (a) Impose on the organization or other person sponsoring the petition drive an administrative fine of not more than \$5,000.00.
- (b) Charge the organization or other person sponsoring the petition drive for the costs of canvassing a petition form on which a violation of subsection (7) occurred.
- (c) Disqualify an organization or other person described in subdivision (a) from collecting signatures on a petition for a period of not more than 4 years.
- (d) Disqualify obviously fraudulent signatures on a petition form on which a violation of subsection (7) occurred without checking the signatures against local registration records.
- (e) Disqualify from the ballot a candidate who committed, aided or abetted, or knowingly allowed a violation of subsection (7) on a petition to nominate that candidate.
- (12) If an individual refuses to comply with a subpoena of the board of state canvassers in an investigation of an alleged violation of subsection (7) or (10), the board may hold the canvass of the petitions in abeyance until the individual complies.
- (13) A person who aids or abets another in an act that is prohibited by this section is guilty of that act.
- (14) The provisions of this section except as otherwise expressly provided apply to all petitions circulated under authority of the election law.

**History:** Add. 1965, Act 312, Eff. Jan. 1, 1966; -- Am. 1972, Act 22, Imd. Eff. Feb. 19, 1972; -- Am. 1982, Act 408, Eff. Mar. 30, 1983; -- Am. 1989, Act 142, Imd. Eff. June 29, 1989; -- Am. 1990, Act 329, Imd. Eff. Dec. 21, 1990; -- Am. 1993, Act 137, Eff. Jan. 1, 1994; -- Am. 1999, Act 219, Eff. Mar. 10, 2000; -- Am. 2002, Act 431, Imd. Eff. June 6, 2002

## 168.560a General election ballot; qualifying to list name, party vignette, and candidates thereon.

Sec. 560a. A political party the principal candidate of which received at the last preceding general election a vote equal to or more than 1% of the total number of votes cast for the successful candidate for secretary of state at the last preceding election in which a secretary of state was elected is qualified to have its name, party vignette, and candidates listed on the next general election ballot.

History: Add. 1976, Act 94, Imd. Eff. Apr. 22, 1976

168.685 Printing name of candidate of new political party on ballot; certificate; petition to form new political party; disqualification and requalification of party; party subject to MCL 168.686a; prohibited conduct.

- Sec. 685. (1) The name of a candidate of a new political party shall not be printed upon the official ballots of an election unless the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee of the party files with the secretary of state, not later than 4 p.m. of the one hundred-tenth day before the general November election, a certificate signed by the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee bearing the name of the party, together with petitions bearing the signatures of registered and qualified electors equal to not less than 1% of the total number of votes cast for all candidates for governor at the last election in which a governor was elected. The petitions shall be signed by at least 100 registered electors in each of at least 1/2 of the congressional districts of the state. All signatures on the petitions shall be obtained not more than 180 days immediately before the date of filing.
- (2) After the date on which a petition is filed, the secretary of state shall not accept additional petition sheets for that petition. The validity and authenticity of the signatures may be determined in the same manner as provided for initiatory and referendary petitions in section 9 of article II of the state constitution of 1963. An official declaration of the sufficiency or insufficiency of a petition filed under this section shall be made by the board of state canvassers not later than 60 days before the general November election.

PETITION TO FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY

(3) The petitions shall be in substantially the following form:

		_
We, the undersigned, d	luly registered electors of the city, township of	county
of	, state of Michigan, residing at the places set of	opposite our names,
(strike one)		
respectfully request the	e secretary of state, in accordance with section 685	of the Michigan
election law, 1954 PA	116, MCL 168.685, to receive the certificate and v	rignette accompanying
this petition, and place	the names of the candidates of the	party on the
ballot at the	election.	
Warning: A person wh	no knowingly signs petitions to organize more than	1 new state political
party, signs a petition t	o organize a new state political party more than on	ice, or signs a name
other than his or her ov	vn is violating the provisions of the Michigan elect	tion law.

- (4) The balance of the petition form shall be substantially as set forth in section 544c. The size of all organizing petitions shall be 8-1/2 inches by 13 inches and shall be printed in the following type sizes: The words "petition to form new political party" and the name of the proposed political party shall be in 24-point boldface type; the word "warning" and the language contained in the warning shall be in 12-point boldface type.
- (5) Petitions circulated under this section may be circulated on a countywide basis. A petition that is circulated countywide shall be on a form prescribed by the secretary of state.
- (6) If the principal candidate of a political party receives a vote equal to less than 1% of the total number of votes cast for the successful candidate for the office of secretary of state at the last preceding general November election in which a secretary of state was elected, that political party shall not have the name of any candidate printed on the ballots at the next ensuing general November election, and a column shall not be provided on the ballots for that party. A disqualified party may again qualify and have the names of its candidates printed in a separate party column on each election ballot in the manner set forth in subsection (1) for the qualification of new parties. The term "principal candidate" of a political party means the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes of all candidates of that political party for that election.

- (7) A political party that complied with this section is subject to section 686a in order to have the name of that party, its vignette, and its candidates appear on the general election ballot.
- (8) A person shall not knowingly sign a petition to organize more than 1 new state political party, sign a petition to organize a new state political party more than once, or sign a name other than his or her own on the petition.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955; -- Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955; -- Am. 1961, Act 223, Eff. Sept. 8, 1961; -- Am. 1963, 2nd Ex. Sess., Act 56, Eff. Mar. 24, 1964; -- Am. 1965, Act 312, Eff. Jan. 1, 1966; -- Am. 1973, Act 28, Imd. Eff. June 14, 1973; -- Am. 1976, Act 94, Imd. Eff. Apr. 22, 1976; -- Am. 1988, Act 116, Eff. Nov. 9, 1988; -- Am. 1990, Act 329, Imd. Eff. Dec. 21, 1990; -- Am. 2002, Act 399, Imd. Eff. May 30, 2002

## 168.686 State convention; canvass of returns; certification of nominees; presidential and vice-presidential candidates.

Sec. 686. Within 24 hours after the conclusion of the state convention before a general election, the state central committee of each political party shall canvass the proceedings of the convention and determine the nominees of the convention. Not more than 1 business day after the state convention, the chairperson and secretary of the state central committee shall forward to the secretary of state, a typewritten or printed list of the names and residence, including the street address if known, of all candidates nominated at the state convention. In each presidential election year, the state central committee of each political party shall, not more than 1 business day after the state convention or the national convention of that party, whichever is later, forward to the secretary of state the typewritten or printed names of the candidates of that party for the offices of president of the United States and vice-president of the United States certified to by the chairperson and secretary of the committees. A party is not required to certify nominations made at an official primary election. The secretary of state shall forward a copy of a list received under this section to the board of election commissioners of each county, in care of the county clerk at the county seat.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955; -- Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955; -- Am. 1961, Act 223, Eff. Sept. 8, 1961; -- Am. 1999, Act 216, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1999; -- Am. 2003, Act 284, Imd. Eff. Jan. 8, 2004

# 168.686a Nomination by caucus or convention where no candidate polls 5% of vote cast for candidates for secretary of state.

Sec. 686a. (1) If a political party entitled to a position on the ballot failed to have at least 1 candidate who polled at least 5% of the total vote cast for all candidates for secretary of state at the last preceding election at which a secretary of state was elected, candidates for that political party shall be nominated as provided in section 532. County caucuses and state conventions for such political parties shall be held not later than the August primary.

(2) County caucuses may nominate candidates for the office of representative in congress, state senator, and state representative if the offices represent districts contained wholly within the county, and for all county and township offices. Not more than 1 business day after the conclusion of the caucus, the names and mailing addresses of all candidates so nominated and the offices for which they were nominated shall be certified by the chairperson and secretary of the caucus to the county clerk. The certification shall be accompanied by an affidavit of identity for each candidate named in the certificate as provided in section 558 and a separate written certificate of acceptance of nomination signed by each candidate named on the

certificate. The form of the certificate of acceptance shall be prescribed by the secretary of state. If a candidate is so certified with the accompanying affidavit of identity and certificate of acceptance, the name of the candidate shall be printed on the ballot for that election. Candidates nominated and certified shall not be permitted to withdraw.

- (3) The county caucus may also select the number of delegates to the state convention to which the county is entitled and shall select its own officers and name its own county committee.
- (4) The state convention shall be held at the time and place indicated in the call. The convention shall consist of delegates selected by the county caucuses. The convention may fill vacancies in a delegation from qualified electors of that county present at the convention. The convention may nominate candidates for all state offices. District candidates may be nominated at district caucuses held in conjunction with the state convention attended by qualified delegates of the district. If delegates of a district are not present, a district caucus shall not be held for that district and candidates shall not be nominated for that district. Not more than 1 business day after the conclusion of the convention, the names and mailing addresses of the candidates nominated for state or district offices shall be certified by the chairperson and secretary of the state convention to the secretary of state. The certification shall be accompanied by an affidavit of identity for each candidate named in the certificate as provided in section 558 and a separate written certificate of acceptance of nomination signed by each candidate named on the certificate. The form of the certificate of acceptance shall be prescribed by the secretary of state. The names of candidates so certified with accompanying affidavit of identity and certificate of acceptance shall be printed on the ballot for the forthcoming election. Candidates so nominated and certified shall not be permitted to withdraw.

**History:** Add. 1961, Act 223, Eff. Sept. 8, 1961; -- Am. 1973, Act 28, Imd. Eff. June 14, 1973; - Am. 1976, Act 3, Imd. Eff. Feb. 3, 1976; -- Am. 1988, Act 116, Eff. Nov. 9, 1988; -- Am. 1999, Act 216, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1999

#### 168.687 Certification of nominations by board of canvassers.

Sec. 687. The board of canvassers, whose duty it is to determine who are nominated for public office at any official primary election, shall forthwith, upon such determination, certify the nomination as follows:

For an office to be filled by the electors of the state at large, to the board of election commissioners of each county and to the secretary of state;

For a district office, to the board of election commissioners of each county, the whole or part of which county forms a part of the district, or to the board of election commissioners of the county, a part of which forms the district and to the secretary of state;

For a county office, to the board of election commissioners of the county; and

For a city or ward office, to the board of election commissioners of the city.

Each certificate shall set forth the name of the candidate, the office for which and the party on whose ticket he was nominated and, if for a district office, shall designate the district.

**History:** 1954, Act 116, Eff. June 1, 1955 ;-- Am. 1955, Act 271, Imd. Eff. June 30, 1955 ;-- Am. 1961, Act 223, Eff. Sept. 8, 1961

#### 168.692a Qualifying petition not to be filed by certain persons.

Sec. 692a. A person who files a partisan nominating petition or filing fee as a candidate of a political party, or who is nominated by a political party convention, committee, or caucus

and accepts the nomination, shall not file a qualifying petition under chapter XXIVA for an office to be elected at that election or at an election held during the same calendar year. **History:** Add. 1988, Act 116, Imd. Eff. May 2, 1988

PETITION TO FORM NEW POLITICAL PARTY WARNING -- A CIRCULATOR KNOWINGLY MAKING A FALSE STATEMENT IN THE ABOVE CERTIFICATE, A PERSON NOT A CIRCULATOR WHO SIGNS AS A CIRCULATOR, OR A PERSON WHO SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN AS A CIRCULATOR IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

Township of Townsh CERTIFICATE OF CIRCULATOR

The undersigned circulator of the above petition asserts that he or she is qualified to circulate this petition and that each signature on the petition was signed in his or her presence; and that, to his or her best knowledge and belief, each signature is the genuine signature of the present purporting to sign the petition, the person signing the petition was eithe time of signing a qualified registered clector of the City or Township indicated preceding the signature, and the elector was qualified to sign the petition. Township of City of Ci WARNING -- A PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY SIGNS PETITIONS TO ORGANIZE MORE THAN ONE NEW STATE POLITICAL PARTY, SIGNS A PETITION TO ORGANIZE A NEW STATE POLITICAL PARTY MORE THAN ONCE, OR SIGNS A NAME OTHER THAN HIS OR HER OWN IS INDICATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP IN WHICH REGISTERED TO VOTE VIOLATING THE PROVISIONS OF THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW. 4 ಭ N SIGNATURE PRINTED NAME 2 STREET ADDRESS OR RURAL ROUTE - Zw Code -POST-OFFICE-

PAID FOR BY THE GREEN PARTY OF MICHIGAN, 548 SOUTH MAIN, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104

CERTIFICATE UNTIL AFTER CIRCULATING PETITION.

DO NOT SIGN OR DATE

CIRCULATOR -

(Signature of Circulator)

Complete Address (Street and Number or Rural Route)

(City or Township Where Registered) (Printed Name of Circulator)

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DATE OF SIGNING Month Day Year